

LETTERS to the Editor

Registry for Liver Tumors Associated with Oral Contraceptives

TO THE EDITOR: We have discovered a substantial number of cases of liver tumors associated with oral contraceptives. These cases have been documented elsewhere and we are publishing our report in *Obstetrics and Gynecology*. We are establishing a registry for these cases and are presently researching methods for early identification of patients at risk. The registry will be staffed by a nationally known gastroenterologist, hepatologist, pathologist and surgeon. We will serve as codirectors and will coordinate the various disciplines through our department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Case reports are invited for the Registry for Liver Tumors Associated with Oral Contraceptives. Full acknowledgment will be accorded. Either of us may be contacted at the Orange County Medical Center, University of California, Irvine, Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics. Telephone (714) 633-9393 Ext. 183.

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NPR's for Medicare

TO THE EDITOR: A convalescent hospital "non-physician representative (NPR)" for Medicare has decreed that a diabetic with hypertensive heart disease, myocardial infarct just 14 days ago, complicated by congestive heart failure and pneumonia, sometimes requiring oxygen administration for survival, no longer needs "skilled nursing care."

I must confess, I don't know whether I am angrier at the apparent fiscal expediency of just letting die a person I believe to have some quality of life left, or whether I am angrier at the abro-

gation of my authority by nurses who prostitute their profession. This is a widespread problem I don't see solved by our usual administrative measures as likely as by public indignation over bureaucratic oppression. My patient chose me, the physician, to decide whether a "skilled nurse" was needed to observe her need for oxygen, etc.—not a nurse-turned-bureaucrat whose future money and power often conflict with the patient's best interest.

How can I fulfill my responsibilities when a nurse can overrule my authority?

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Soap Photodermatitis

TO THE EDITOR: In his *Epitome of Progress* entitled "Soap Photodermatitis" (*West J Med* 121: 314, Oct 1974), Dr. J. B. Pace (Graduate Division, Department of Family Medicine, University of California, Irvine) stated that Procter & Gamble's Zest® toilet bar contains brominated salicylanilides. The statement is incorrect. A highly purified form of tribromsalan (3,4',5'-tribromosalicylanilide) formerly was used in Zest; however, its use was discontinued in October, 1972. Zest, therefore, has contained no brominated salicylanilide for over two and one-half years. Data from controlled diagnostic tests with Zest which have been performed under our sponsorship by private physicians also fail to support the statement that Zest commonly induces photosensitization.

We continue to be interested in assisting physicians to determine if cutaneous reactions they see are, in fact, adverse reactions to our products, or if they merely are coincidental to their use. To that end, physicians who believe they have adverse reactions to Zest are encouraged to contact me.

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